CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system comprising:

2 a server computer;

3 a first transmission medium coupled to the server computer; and

4 a client computer coupled to the first transmission medium, the client

5 computer including a security component that has exclusive access to a log

6 stored at the client computer.

1 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a second transmission medium coupled to the client computer; and

3 a source device coupled to the second transmission medium.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the client computer further comprises:

2 a playback component that transmits a log entry to the security

3 component upon receiving a request to play content received from the source

4 device via the second transmission medium; and

5 a billing component that transmits the log to the server computer via the

6 first transmission medium.

1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to

2 the server computer upon receiving a request from the server computer.

1 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to

2 the server computer at predetermined time intervals.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a personal computer.

1   7.   The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a set top appliance.

1   8.   The system of claim 1 wherein the server computer comprises:

2   a billing component that receives the log from the client computer via the

3   first transmission medium;

4   a second security component that decrypts and verifies the integrity of the

5   log; and

6   a database that stores the log.

1   9.   The system of claim 2 wherein the first transmission medium comprises a

2   secure back channel that secures transmissions between the server computer and

3   the client computer and the second transmission medium is a broadcast channel.

1   10.   The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium

2   comprises an internal network connection.

1   11.   The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium

2   comprises a satellite transmission.

1   12.   A method comprising:

2   generating a billing record at a computer system;

3   receiving the billing record at a security component within the computer

4   system;

5   inserting the billing record into a log; and

6   encrypting the log.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a request at the

2   computer system to retrieve media content that is to be played at the computer

3   system.

1   14.   The method of claim 12 further comprising writing the log to a data

2   storage device within the computer system.

1   15.   A software product having one or more recordable media having stored

2   thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device,

3   causes the processing device to:

4   generate a billing record at a computer system;

5   receive the billing record at a security component within the computer

6   system;

7   insert the billing record into a log; and

8   encrypt the log.

1   16.   The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the

2   processing device to receive a request at the computer system to retrieve media

3   content that is to be played at the computer system.

1   17.   The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the

2   processing device to write the log to a data storage device within the computer

3   system.

1   18.   A method comprising:

2   receiving an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client

3   computer via a secure back channel;

4   decrypting the billing log at a security component within the server

5   computer; and

6   storing the billing log at a database.

1   19.   The method of claim 18 further comprising testing the validity of the

2   billing log.

1   20.   The method of claim 19 wherein testing the validity of the billing log

2   comprises:

3   validating a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and

4   comparing a first token value stored in the database with a second token

5   value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.

1   21.   The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2   generating a third token value;

3   generating a second billing log at the server computer that includes the

4   third token value; and

5   transmitting the second billing log and the third token value to the client

6   computer via the secure back channel.

1   22.   The method of claim 21 further comprising:

2   signing the second billing log with a second digital signature; and

3   encrypting the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing

4   log to the client computer.

1   23.   A software product having one or more recordable media having stored

2   thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device,

3   causes the processing device to:

4   receive an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client

5   computer via a secure back channel;

6   decrypt the billing log at a security component within the server

7   computer; and

8   store the billing log at a database.

1   24.   The software product of claim 23 further comprising causing the

2   processing device to test the validity of the billing log.

1   25.   The software product of claim 24 wherein causing the processing device to

2   test the validity of the billing log further causes the processing device to:

3   validate a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and

4   compare a first token value stored in the database with a second token

5   value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.

1   26.   The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the

2   processing device to:

3   generate a third token value;

4   generate a second billing log at the server computer that includes the third

5   token value; and

6   transmit the second billing log and the third token value to the client

7   computer via the secure back channel.

1   27.   The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the

2   processing device to:

3   sign the second billing log with a second digital signature; and

4   encrypt the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing log

5   to the client computer.